**ARTH 4801-006 – Gender and the Body in Victorian Art & Design**  
Spring 2023, 3 credits  
Mondays & Wednesdays, 12:30–1:50 PM, ART 288

**Professor Contact Information**  
Carey Gibbons  
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Office location: Art Building 217  
Phone number: 940-565-4777 (Dept. of Art History number – not a direct line)  
Email: Carey.Gibbons@unt.edu (much preferred over phone)  
Office hours: Mondays 4:00–6:00 PM. Also available by appointment (in-person or Zoom).

**Course description**  
This course will explore the significance of the body, especially the gendered body, in nineteenth-century British art and design. Victorian painting, sculpture, decorative arts, fashion, graphic design, illustration, interiors, furniture, and product design will be addressed through a consideration of different artists, designers, and movements, with a particular focus on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and Aestheticism. Topics including but not limited to gender roles, class, the family, morality, sexuality, beauty, power, and love will be explored through in-depth visual analysis and the reading of a range of scholarly texts.

**Course structure & content**  
This class meets in person. Readings are from a variety of sources and will be posted on Canvas. Make sure you do your readings and required work before our class days. Readings will be supplemented by lectures, student presentations, discussions (primarily on Canvas discussion boards), and occasional activities (in-class and on Canvas) throughout the semester. I have included a course schedule of topics and readings in this syllabus, but be sure to check your email and Canvas regularly for adjustments to the schedule.

**Course objectives**  
• Students will investigate a range of types of Victorian art and design, including painting, sculpture, decorative arts, fashion, graphic design, illustration, interiors, furniture, and product design, gaining an understanding of objects in relation to historical, cultural, and social developments.  
• Students will reach an understanding of the ways in which the body was represented and how it engaged with issues of gender during the Victorian period.  
• Students will engage in a cross-disciplinary analysis of the Victorian period, considering Victorian art and design in relation to literature, science, and religion.  
• Students will apply the vocabulary and analytical skills needed to conduct research and present conclusions thoughtfully in verbal and written form.

**Course disclaimer**  
Content in the arts and design can sometimes include works, situations, actions, and language that can be personally challenging or offensive to some students on the grounds, for example, of sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. We might encounter examples of harmful stereotypes, racially insensitive images, and expressions of cultural and racial superiority. As the College of Visual Arts and Design is devoted to the principle of freedom of expression,
artistic and otherwise, it is not the college’s practice to censor these works or ideas on any of these grounds. Students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

Technical assistance
At UNT we have an IT Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Live Chat: https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/chatsupport
Phone: 940-565-2324
In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330
Hours and Availability: Visit https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk for up-to-date hours and availability.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Rules of Engagement
Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. These rules will be factored into your final participation grade. Here are some general guidelines:
• While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
• Treat your instructor and classmates with respect, even when their opinion differs from your own.
• Speak from personal experiences. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or another individual’s experiences.
• Use your critical thinking skills to respectfully challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.

Student Support Services
UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:
• Student Health and Wellness Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
• Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
• UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
• UNT Psychiatric Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
• Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Other student support services offered by UNT include
• Registrar (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
• Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
• Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
• Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
• Multicultural Center (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
• Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
• UNT Food Pantry (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services
• Academic Resource Center (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
• Academic Success Center (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
• UNT Libraries (https://library.unt.edu/)
• Writing Lab (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
• MathLab (https://math.unt.edu/mathlab)

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences
According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Emergency Notification & Procedures
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.
Survivor Advocacy
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at 940-565-2759.

Course Requirements & Grade Distribution
Attendance & Participation: 15%
Oral Presentation: 10%
3 Essay responses: 15% each = 45% total
Final Project: 30%

Attendance & Participation
Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. Your Attendance & Participation grade will be lowered by one full letter grade for more than 2 unexcused absences. An excused absence is granted if you are ill or have an urgent reason for being unable to attend class. Appropriate documentation is required (i.e. a doctor’s note or proof of a positive Covid test) unless I tell you otherwise. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so we can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals.
Excessive tardiness will count as an absence (3 late arrivals=1 unexcused absence). Do not leave the class while it is in session unless you have an urgent reason.

It is required that each student come to class having completed the required reading and any assignments. You are also expected to participate in class discussions and any in-class activities that are assigned. Additionally, discussion board responses will factor into your Attendance & Participation grade.

No cell phones shall be visible or audible in the classroom after class begins unless there is an emergency. If you are seen using a phone repeatedly during class without permission, your Attendance & Participation grade will suffer.

Oral presentations
You will be expected to present on one of the assigned readings this semester. I will provide a sign-up sheet for you to select the reading you would like to present on. You are encouraged to show a slides presentation (i.e. PowerPoint). Please email your presentation to me before class begins on the day you are presenting.
Essays
Your responses to essay questions are due on February 22, March 22, and April 26. You will be provided with the questions at least a week in advance and are expected to write responses of at least 800 words.

Final project
You will have options for your final project, including a research paper (8–10 pages), creative writing project, virtual exhibition, art project, or podcast episode. I will provide you with detailed instructions, and you must email your topic to me for approval by 11:59 PM on Wed., April 12. The assignment is due by Mon., May 8 by 11:59 PM. A letter grade will be deducted from the final project grade for each day past the deadline if you are late.

Grading
A: 90% course average or above. Excellent work produced throughout the semester.
B: 80% course average or above. Good work produced throughout the semester.
C: 70% course average or above. Fair work produced throughout the semester.
D: 60% course average or above. Passing work produced throughout the semester.
F: Failure

COURSE SCHEDULE & READINGS (subject to revision)

WEEK 1: Wed., January 18 – Syllabus review/Introduction to the course

WEEK 2: Mon., January 23 – Overview of The Pre-Raphaelites

Required readings:
• Tim Barringer, “Introduction,” and Ch. 1, “Rebellion and Revivalism,” in Reading the Pre-Raphaelites (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1999), 7-17; 32-45.

Recommended readings:

WEEKS 2–3: Wed., January 25, Mon., January 30, & Wed., February 1 – Normative Femininity and Masculinity; Domesticity; Mothers and Children
Note: Read the Casteras and Ruskin readings first since our class on Wed., January 25 will focus on those.
Required readings:
• Carol Armstrong, “Cupid’s Pencil of Light: Julia Margaret Cameron and the Maternalization of Photography,” *October* 76 (Spring 1996), 115–41.

Recommended readings:

**WEEK 4: Mon., February 6 & Wed., February 8 – Subversive Femininity**

Required readings:

Recommended readings:
WEEK 5: Mon., February 13 & Wed., February 15 – Visit to view Special Collections materials (Room 443, Willis Library); William Morris and the Kelmscott Press; Victorian Illustration

Note: On Mon., Feb. 13, students with the last names from Aparicio – Labya will visit SC, and on Wed., Feb. 15, the last names Lombardo – Wright will visit SC. Since I will be in NYC at the College Art Association conference on February 15, I will not be able to attend the visit that day.

Required readings:


ESSAY RESPONSE DUE on Feb. 22 by 11:59 PM

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEK 7: Mon., February 27 & Wed., March 1 – Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEK 8: Mon., March 6 & Wed., March 8 – Reframing the Nude in Victorian Art

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEK 9: Mon., March 13 & Wed., March 15
SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS!

WEEK 10: Mon., March 20 & Wed., March 22 – Albert Moore, James McNeill Whistler, and Aestheticism

ESSAY RESPONSE DUE on March 22 by 11:59 PM

Required readings:
• Introduction to the V&A exhibition, “The Cult of Beauty”: https://www.vam.ac.uk/blog/creating-cult-beauty/video-introduction-aestheticism

Recommended readings:

WEEK 11: Mon., March 27 & Wed., March 29 – Androgyny and Queerness

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEK 12: Mon., April 3 & Wed., April 5 – Ornament, Objects, & The Interior

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEK 13: Mon., April 10 & Wed., April 12 – Scientific Connections

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEK 14: Mon., April 17 & Wed., April 19 – Victorian Fashion + Visit to the Texas Fashion Collection study space in the Art Building, room 259, on Wed., April 19
Note: Our class on Mon., April 17 will probably be on Zoom since I will most likely be in London.

Required readings:
• Kimberly Wahl, Ch. 5, “The Artful Containment of the Aesthetic Female Body,” in Dressed as in a Painting: Women and British Aestheticism in an Age of Reform (Durham, NH: University of New Hampshire Press, 2013), 141–60, 185–86.

Recommended readings:

WEEK 15: Mon., April 24 & Wed., April 26 – Religion and Spiritualism

ESSAY RESPONSE DUE on April 26 by 11:59 PM

Required readings:

Recommended readings:

WEEK 16: Mon., May 1 & Wed., May 3 – Identity, Crowds, and Control

Required readings:
• Mary Cowling, Ch. 2, “The Urban Scene: Painters of the Crowd,” in Victorian Figurative Painting: Domestic Life and the Contemporary Social Scene (London: Andreas Papadakis, 2000), 88–118.

Recommended readings:

**FINAL PROJECT DUE ON MONDAY, MAY 8 by 11:59 PM.**